

**PATENT**  
**IBM Docket No. RAL999-0080**

**Based upon prior restriction, Claims 1-13 was presented for examination. The Examiner, subsequent to a first Office Action on the elected Claims 1-13, imposes another two-way restriction making a grand total of (7) seven restrictions for this application.**

**Applicants contend seven restrictions in a single application are far too many. The restrictions are unnecessary and serve neither the public good nor that of the applicants. We further believe this is an abuse of the examining process and intend to seek redress, by combining some of the unnecessary groupings, via petition.**

**Regarding the current restriction the Examiner classifies Claims 1-9 into one group and Claims 10-13 in another group. The Examiner then argues Claims 10-13 are drawn to a computer network monitoring system.**

**Applicants argue the Examiner's characterization of Claims 10-13 is totally incorrect. The characterization is too broad and consequently the Examiner erroneously concludes the subject matter is classified differently from the classification of Claims 1-9. Contrary to the Examiner's position, applicants contend Claims 10-13 relate to use of the Interface device (recited in claims 1-9) to handle data in the same environment in which it is claimed in Claims 1-10. Therefore, there is no need to search the claims in different class/subclass as suggested by the Examiner.**

*Serial Number 09/384692*

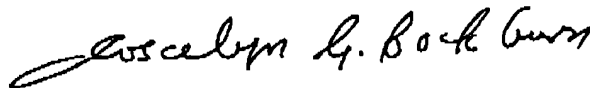
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Moreover, applicants argue the Examiner's first decision to group Claims 1-13 in the same group is correct and should be reinstated. As a consequence, Claims 1-13 should be examined as one group and not in two groups as is now suggested by the Examiner.

Even though applicants traverse this restriction, if the Examiner still persists then applicants select Claims 10-13 for examination.

Respectfully Submitted,



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the Claims:**

**Claims 1-9 have been canceled without prejudice.**

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